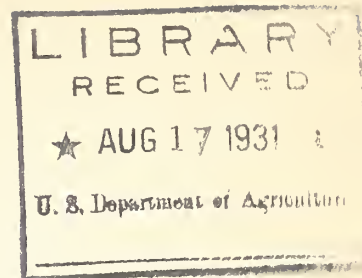


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D. C.



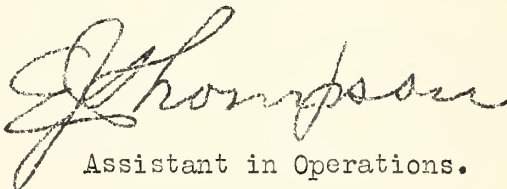
July 31, 1931

Memorandum to Leaders of Field Projects:

For your information there is inclosed an announcement from the Bureau of Prisons, U. S. Department of Justice, regarding articles which can be furnished from the U. S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga. These include tents, tent flies and tarpaulins, cotton and canvas bags, boat covers, and various other articles manufactured from cotton or canvas.

In accordance with instructions contained in P. B. A. circulars 134 and 139, which were sent to field leaders with my memorandum of July 25, 1930, all orders for materials which are manufactured by the Textile Mill of the U. S. Penitentiary at Atlanta should be placed with that institution.

Orders for these materials should be anticipated so far as possible in order to allow the necessary time for their manufacture and delivery. Should there be need for immediate delivery of any of this material or for other reasons it is impracticable to secure it through the Bureau of Prisons, clearance for purchase should be obtained in advance, and will be arranged for by application to this office. In such instances the reasons for purchasing elsewhere should be clearly stated.


Assistant in Operations.

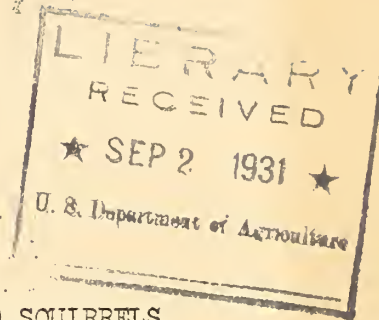
P. S. -

LIST ABOVE REFERRED TO INADVERTENTLY MAILED YOU SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

1/10/1912

Dear Mr. [Name]
I have the pleasure to inform you that your letter of the 10th inst. has been received and the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time, but the matter is being handled as quickly as possible. I will be sure to let you know as soon as a final decision has been reached. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to write again if you have any further questions or need any more information. I am sure that you will understand the need for a thorough review of the matter.
Very truly yours,
[Signature]

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.



DIRECTIONS FOR POISONING THIRTEEN-STRIPED GROUND SQUIRRELS

The thirteen-striped ground squirrels, sometimes known as striped gophers, often become troublesome pests by digging up corn and other seeds from newly planted fields.

Poisoned grain is one of the most effective agents for controlling these squirrels. The poison mixture should consist of the following ingredients:

Dry gloss starch1 heaping tablespoonful
Strychnine (alkaloid), powdered1 ounce
Baking soda.....1 ounce
Corn sirup.....1/4 pint
Glycerine.....1 tablespoonful
Saccharine.....1/10 ounce
Clean oats.....15 quarts

Dissolve the dry gloss starch in a little cold water and add to 3/4 pint of hot water. Boil, stirring constantly until a thin clear paste is formed. Mix together the powdered strychnine (alkaloid) and baking soda, sift into the hot starch paste, and stir to a smooth creamy mass. Add the corn sirup, glycerine, and saccharine and stir thoroughly. Pour this mixture over the oats and mix so that each grain is evenly coated. It is important that only the best grade of clean oats free of weed seeds be used, as chaff absorbs and wastes much valuable strychnine, and poisoned weed-seeds imperil useful bird life, as well as propagate weeds.

Strychnine in any form other than powdered strychnine (alkaloid) is not effective in the above formula. A bait almost as efficient may be prepared by using strychnine sulphate, as follows:

Dissolve 1 ounce of strychnine sulphate in 1-1/2 pints of boiling water. After the strychnine has dissolved, make the starch paste as directed above, using this hot, poisoned water for the purpose. Then stir in 1 ounce of baking soda, add sirup, glycerine, and saccharine and proceed as in the above directions.

The baits should be placed in teaspoonful quantities scattered at the entrance of the burrows used by the ground squirrels. The grain should not be placed in piles, but should be scattered lightly about the entrance to the burrow, preferably on hard clean ground. It should not be placed on loose or dirty ground or in the holes. When properly distributed there is very little danger of poisoning livestock. The bait should not be exposed, however, where hogs or poultry are likely to pick it up.

Ground squirrels may also be killed by using calcium cyanide. This material generates a deadly poisonous gas and is usually very

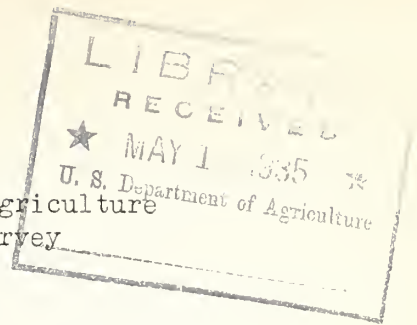
effective in the control of striped ground squirrels. A tablespoonful should be inserted in the burrow and the entrance should then be covered with dirt. This is a highly dangerous substance and should be used with extreme caution. Another successful method of eliminating ground squirrels is by the use of the exhaust of an automobile. One end of a hose may be attached to the exhaust pipe of the car and the other end inserted in the burrow. Carbon monoxide gas generated by the motor soon penetrates the burrow and kills the squirrels very quickly. This scheme is practicable where only a few squirrels are causing the trouble;

Caution

All utensils used in the preparation of poisons and all poison containers should be kept plainly labeled and out of reach of children, irresponsible persons, and livestock.

Bi-1163
August '31

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey



DIRECTIONS FOR CONTROLLING TREE SQUIRRELS

Tree squirrels of the red, fox, gray, and flying species sometimes become a troublesome nuisance by occupying attics, double walls, and other similar spaces in houses. While control in such local instances is desirable, caution must be exercised to guard against killing the squirrels, as they are protected by the game laws of many States, except during open hunting seasons in the fall, which vary in the different states. Some States do not protect the red squirrels, and none protect the flying squirrels. Some States permit the destruction of squirrels where they are doing damage to property, providing permission is granted by the State game officer. Squirrels should not be killed in conflict with State laws.

Squirrels may often be driven from houses by the use of repellents, one of the most successful of which is naphthalene. This may be secured at any local drug store in the form of flakes or the common "moth balls," the flakes being preferred for this purpose. Four or five pounds of the flakes should be scattered liberally about the spaces frequented by the squirrels, and this treatment should be repeated as often as necessary.

It is not practicable to close the openings to shut the squirrels out of a place they are accustomed to use, because if they have become established and then find their usual entrances obstructed, they will probably gnaw their way through the walls in other places and do additional damage.

In case the use of repellents is not practicable, squirrels may frequently be caught in box traps. A full description of a box trap satisfactory for this purpose is described in Leaflet No. 50-L, "How to Make a Cat Trap," which may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The trap should be baited with nuts. Squirrels so captured may be transported some distance and released, or given to the management of public parks and estates, where there is usually a demand for them.

If necessary to destroy the squirrels, shooting with a small caliber rifle is perhaps the most satisfactory method. Local ordinances relative to shooting in cities must, of course, be observed.

Trapping with steel traps is also effective. Small No. "0" or No. "1" steel traps should be set in the crotches or at the bases of trees which the squirrels are seen to frequent. Nuts placed about the traps will serve as a satisfactory lure.

